

# NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 2 NO. 17

AUGUST 16, 1986



## QUEEN LILIUOKALANI AND THE ALOHA TOWER THE 1986 HCC WOODS

The Honolulu Coin Club's final monarch wooden token is Queen Liliuokalani that closed the Royal Era of the eight Hawaiian Kings and a Queen.

Liliuokalani was the sister of King Kalakaua. She was proclaimed Queen and took the oath of office in January 29, 1891. Liliuokalani was a brilliant woman but her reign was a little less than two years because the government was

overthrown in a brief but bloodless revolution. This soon led to the abolition of the monarchy and the annexation of the islands to the United States.

Queen Liliuokalani was noted for her beautiful music which is often played today—like the "Queen's Prayer" and "Aloha Oe."

The reverse of the wood features the 60th Anniversary of the Aloha Tower. Built in 1926, the Aloha Tower was the symbol of Hawaii like the Statue of Liberty, which we are celebrating our centennial year in 1986. The Aloha Tower is Hawaii's welcome home.

During the early 1900's through the 40's and 50's, many of our GIs never forgot the Aloha Tower when they left Hawaii on ships heading for the far away lands during World War I and II through the Korean War; the sadness of leaving Hawaii and the warm welcome sight on their return to the islands.

Mail orders for the HHC token will be accepted after August 16, 1986, Honolulu Coin Club Show at 25¢ each, per token, plus SASE. Mail to Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, HI 96818.

## HSNA PAST AND FUTURE

BY M. F. KENDRICK

As another HSNA show is quickly approaching and as preparations are being made, I cannot help but think back on the show that was held last year at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. There were over sixty (60) happy dealers who showed their enthusiasm by reserving their tables far in advance for our next show. As bourse chairperson, this was a tremendous relief for me knowing that the dealers had a good time and most likely a profitable one as well. To me, this was a vote of confidence by the dealers that we are doing things right. So far, we have had to turn away over twenty (25) dealers due to the fact that we have already reached our capacity.

I want to say thank you and mahalo to our volunteers from the Honolulu Coin Club for their help and support for without them this show would not have been possible.

We have decided to remain at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel because of our good working relationship with management and for economical reasons. However, because we are expanding, we are contemplating on new sites for our future HSNA shows.

These are some of the things that we would like to include in our shows in the future:

1. Coin Auction
2. U.S. Mint Exhibits (they have expressed an interest in bringing their exhibits to our show)
3. Guest Speakers on Numismatic Topics
4. Educational Programs
5. Special Exhibits

With the increase of cost of supplies and services, it is very difficult to keep our bourse fees at a reasonable rate and at the same time provide the programs that we need. Because we have not found any facility that is considered reasonable cost-wise and within our budget, we have had to do without some of the programs. It is far-fetched to think about our own building where all of this would be possible. Maybe that is the way to go. I would welcome any positive input from all of you to better our show. In essence, cost is the major factor to the whole program.

Again, I say thank you to all who have helped in making the show a success.

MAHALO!

## HONOLULU COIN CLUB

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Susannah Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street, 7:30 p.m. Gregory Hunt, president.



# Talking Story

BY IRVING KAM



In the true axiom of the local tradition of talking story, cooled by the shade of tropical foliage and enhanced by the blessing of a light intermittent ua, I finally got around to having a one-on-one conversation with Gary Lau. For no particular reason, we never had the opportunity to verbally exchange collecting adventures though I knew my series of articles would not be complete without his inclusion, and so, finally.

Upon entering the family's "treasure" room, one encounters an impressive assemblage of Hawaii memorabilia and collectibles. Old glass bottles which once contained soda and milk dominate the shelves and cabinets continuing on to the floor. Blob top, crown top, whiskey, gin, medicine, beer, and everything else in between. Some bottles still contain their original contents and/or paper labels which somehow remarkably escaped the elements of deterioration. Holly's collection of vintage dairy bottles run the length of the back wall showing off their brightly colored painted labels and a myriad of embossments. A special section was built to house the older soda water bottles from the different companies which proliferated in Hawaii around the turn of the century. Upon closer examination, samplings include the larger "Hawaiian Soda Works" inside screw, "Post Exchange Schofield Barracks," misspelled "Post Exchange 1st Infantry" siphon, and the only known amethyst "Waimea Soda Works" crown top, as most are green. He feels he is somewhere around three-quarters complete as far as sodas are concerned. Most of these bottles were unearthed by Gary after endless hours of laborious digging, often at night, or through the trading of duplicates.

When leaving the room to go outdoors to resume our conversation, I remember giving an envious final glance at that beautiful koa rocker with a curly grained back rest; a tall calabash that gave me chicken skin which I tried to conceal every time I looked, and the many wonderful things, I knew, I would not have space to mention or would not want to reveal. Suppressing a grin with no disrespect intended, I thought to myself, now this would be the kind of garage sale I've been dreaming about for the past 10 years.

Between boasting of our surfing prowess, I learned Gary started collecting while recovering from an industrial accident in the mid '70s. While Holly searched through the stamp selection of the now defunct Pearlridge Stamp and Coin Company, she discovered a lunch token from his old intermediate school and another from his elementary school. After purchasing the "Central Jr. High School" and "Royal School" tokens, with a cartooned back "Hilo Dairymen's" milk bottle added for good measure, he was hooked. Says Gary, "One thing led to another. It was like a fever." Visiting coin shops, coin shows, bottle shows, and bid boards were now a part of his life's schedule.

After a few years, he eventually joined the Honolulu Coin Club where he "met a lot of good people" and expanded his collections with purchases from the different club functions. Not only is he an active collector, but also an active club member, serving as Vice President for the Coin Club as well as the Hawaii Historical Bottle Collectors Club for a time. With the opening of his mother's lei shop and feeling his duties in the club were minimal, Gary decided to step down and direct his time to the much needed help at the store. Sweetheart's Lei Shop is located in town on Beretania Street where Gary spends

a couple of nights a week. He must have had some influence on the shop's decor as I've witnessed Island memorabilia scattered about the premises.

Looking through his collection of Hawaii tokens is to realize the tremendous time, patience, and money that goes into assembling a grouping such as this. Quality as well as quantity is represented here and above all of his interests, tokens are his first love. Whether it's school lunch, plantation, commercial, amusement, or woods, he's fond of most of the major categories. Scanning the vinyl pages of those thick folders revealed good fors issued by establishments, merchants, and purposes now long past "Hilo Emporium," "Silva's Bakery," "Union Saloon Hilo/Enterprise Beer," both "Grove Ranch Plantation," "Hind Clark Dairy" one pint with four scallops, "Honolulu Cracker Co.," "Hakalau Plantation Dairy Co.," unlisted as to the face amount. A few of his many standouts among the popular school lunch series include "Lanakila School," "Naalehu School," "Andrew Cox, Jr. High School," and an unusual "Kalakaua Intermediate School Lunch Permit" of octagonal shape with a blank reverse. The latter two are unlisted. Tokens of this caliber seldom make an appearance and many collectors may not be in the right buying position when one does happen to surface. Yet, you never know. Like Gary said, "Good luck!"

The key to Gary's advanced position in the hobby seems to be the way he interplays one area with the other. Maybe this is why I tend to mention his bottle collection so much. In example, while researching a token he may discover a possible dig site for bottles or while digging for bottles he uncovers a token. And it has happened and will happen again. At their Club's bottle show, which I eagerly await each year, many sellers bring Hawaiiana which they dug up and maybe traded bottles for. Under old houses or buildings are notorious hiding place for Hawaiiana if one is willing to crawl, which he is. Possibilities are endless and Gary has taken full advantage of this. I guess what I'm trying to say is that, as opposed to someone who collects once a week or once a month, and for whatever their reason might be, Gary, as well as others, collects every day. Driving around before and after work seeking new bottle digging sites, garage sales, checking coin shops and bid boards before going home, traveling to the outer islands to dig and explore, mail auctions, hiking, and just about any other avenue it may take to add to his already extensive collection. Not only tokens and bottles but match book covers, large and small medals, post cards, key chains, Hawaii advertising items, toned U.S. coins, Walkers, Bust Halves, etc.

He has no time for noncollecting interests as he is obviously already too busy. Added to all the aforementioned activities, he is the current President of the Bottle Club with its duties and functions. I always see him, as well as his family, lending a hand at our coin shows including the HSNA Convention, working on his award winning displays for both clubs and writing those informative articles for this paper.

As for the neophyte collector, he advises them to go for the hard ones first. Especially saloon and plantation tokens. Be prepared to pay over "CAT" if necessary, as they may never get to see some of the pieces again. There are a lot of new collectors getting into the hobby all the time and even Gary is lucky to find two tokens a year that he doesn't already possess.

I'd like to extend a genuine mahalo to Gary for taking the time to get his token collection out of the security box for me to scrutinize and to Holly for the hospitality. It was a pleasurable as well as an educational afternoon and I may have overstayed my welcome, but good times are hard to come by these days.

Aloha! Pau.





## A TOUCH OF HAWAIIANA

### THE CENTRAL JR. HIGH SCHOOL TOKEN

BY GARY LAU



obv: CENTRAL JR. HIGH SCHOOL  
rev: GOOD FOR ONE 5¢ LUNCH

The token I will be sharing with you in this newsletter will be the Central Jr. High School lunch token. Lunch tokens were first established in 1915 while Hawaii was a territory. Schools throughout the islands offered from 22 to 24 lunches for one dollar on the first day of each month. The metal tokens were used in public schools through 1945 and in private schools up into the 60's.

Although a new token was issued in the 70's and 80's for children in low income families under the free lunch programs in public schools, I'm not sure if they are still being used today.

Now for some background on Central School. Princess Ruth Keelikolani was often called "The Last of the Kamehamehas," but although she was undoubtedly born of high chiefly lineage, her direct descent from Kamehameha the Great has long been debated. She was a large woman, standing 6 feet tall and weighing in excess of 400 pounds during the later years in her life. Young children often cried at the sight of her approaching and it hurt her deeply because she truly loved children. She was a woman who either loved you or strongly disapproved of your presence and as a result many loved her while others feared or resented her. In 1881, she became envious of King Kalakaua as his magnificent Iolani Palace was half completed. Princess Ruth decided she must have a palace on her property at 21 Emma Street, Honolulu. Her land was named Kaakopua and her mansion named Keoua Hale. It was completed in February 1883 after two years of construction. It was the first fully plastered home to grace Honolulu and had the distinction of being the most expensive residence at the time.

Inspired by photos she had seen of beautiful homes on Nob Hill in San Francisco, she decided her home must resemble them so she spared no expense to add the finishing touches. The house was two main stories high on a high basement with an attic story and a turret above. It had 16-foot ceilinged drawing rooms which when opened to full capacity spanned 72 feet. The ceilings were of sculptured plaster with frescoes by Italian artists, while koa wood paneling and a wide carved staircase greeted the visitor as he entered the 66-foot-long hall.

Although its beauty could not be surpassed, Princess Ruth never enjoyed her residence; she preferred her lanai of her old place nearby.

After taking ill the day after her mansion's opening festivities, doctors ordered her to the island of Hawaii to recuperate and rest, but it did no good for in May 1883, just three months after Keoua Hale was completed, she passed away. After her death, it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Bernice Pauahi) Bishop and after Bernice's death in 1884, by Charles alone. The house was later purchased by the Republic of Hawaii to accommodate Honolulu High School. In 1908 it changed to Central Grammar School and now is known as Central Intermediate (my alma mater).

HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

23rd ANNUAL

## COIN SHOW

QUEEN KAPIOLANI HOTEL

HOURS:

THURSDAY - NOV 6TH 12 NOON - 8 PM

FRIDAY - SATURDAY NOV 7TH - 8TH  
11 AM - 8 PM

SUNDAY - NOV 9TH 10 AM - 4 PM

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**LADY, CAN YOU SPARE ME A SILVER PROOF DIME?**





## COIN QUESTIONS

BY F. LOO

Send your questions to: Coin Collector  
P.O. Box 61177  
Honolulu, HI 96839-1177

Questions will be answered only by publication in this newsletter. All material sent will become the property of the writer of this column.)

**Q. Very often I see advertisements in newspapers and magazines offering to sell coins. The ads are so interesting. What kind of coins would you recommend I buy?**

**A.** The cost for advertising in any magazine or large newspaper is usually high. The person who paid for the advertising would want to get his money back, and try to make a profit for his risk and effort. Therefore, the person who advertises will have to make the price of what he sells high enough to 1) cover the cost of what is being sold, 2) to recover the cost of advertising, and 3) to make it worthwhile for all the work involved. As a result, most coins which are advertised will be priced higher than coins which are not advertised.

I recommend that you buy coins that you've had a chance to get comparable prices for. Take any advertisement which interests you to any coin club meeting, coin show, or coin shop and ask if the prices in the ad are fair. You'll probably save a lot of money by doing this, and learn about true coin values at the same time.

**NOTE:** Beware of advertisements which claim to sell "coins" but which are only medallion souvenir issues without any intrinsic value.

**Q. My insurance agent has recommended that I buy coins for investment and as part of my financial planning. He said that a big New York firm compiled statistics to show that coins had the best percentage gains over many other types of investments. Is this true? (R.O. — Millilani)**

**A.** Yes, it is true that many coins have had large gains in value over the years. So-called "MS-65" (almost perfect) coins have gone up very high in printed retail prices. However, if you try to sell these MS-65 coins to a dealer at wholesale, you'll generally find that the high prices suddenly disappear and/or that your coins are no longer MS-65. From my collector's point of view, MS-65 prices are used by promoters to sell common date coins to investors at uncommon prices. I do not know of any long-time collector friend who is willing to pay high MS-65 prices for common date coins. Yet, I have sadly seen many novice investors who were persuaded to pay high prices for MS-65 coins.

Therefore, if you know how to sell to novice investors, then an investment in coins could result in high percentage gains.

The current market promotion on the mainland is for MS-64 coins. In my opinion, this is the result of MS-65 coin prices being artificially raised to high levels where transactions seldom occurred. The promoters did not know how to bring down the high printed values, so they are now using the MS-64 grade to lower prices to more marketable levels. Soon, MS-64 coins will have high percentage gains!

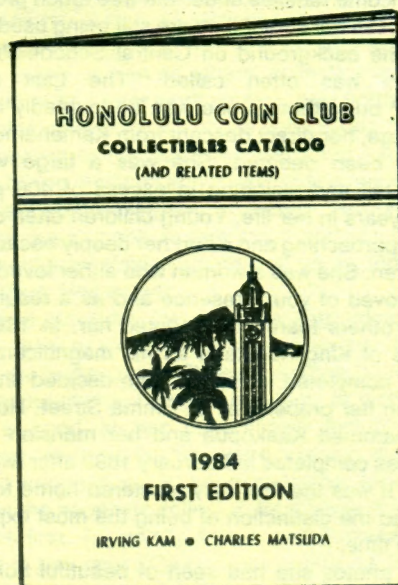
NEXT ISSUE — Where is a good place to buy coins?

## HCC TRIVIA



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Next issue!!*

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# SCARCE SILVER ROUNDS

BY DAVID B. GERE

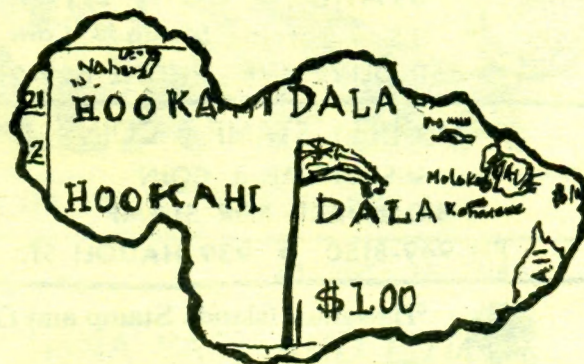


Collecting low mintage silver one-ounce "rounds" is very popular throughout mainland USA. These "coins" are really medals or round bullion pieces, struck by private mints, and issued for various reasons, such as advertisements, commemorations, or just plain bullion sales. The common bullion rounds, although quite collectible, are usually made in gigantic quantities and thus are not within the scope of this article. Serious collector interest centers around tough to find issues that tend to have limited geographical distribution, private distribution, and/or extremely small mintages.

An interesting observation I've made over the past few years is that collectors much prefer .999 fine silver rounds to sterling or lesser fineness issues. A second observation centers around the number minted: it appears that less than 1000 pieces is necessary to warrant serious collector interest, and less than 500 is the key for the search to be fun! Price appreciation usually doesn't occur with issues that are made in sufficient quantities to satisfy the demand of the specialized round collector. My best estimate for the maximum mintage number that will appreciate in price is 200 pieces. Of course, as the number of serious collectors increases, the 200 figure will also increase. Those organizations/issuers that limit their mint run to less than 200 pieces are insuring instant price appreciation and heavy demand by collectors and speculators alike.

Each year since 1964, except for 1976 and 1977, the Hawaii State Numismatic Association (HSNA) has issued a one-ounce silver round to recognize various people and events associated with Hawaiian history and heritage. The annual release of these medals occurs during the HSNA coin show in November. These silver rounds are .999 fine, weigh one troy ounce, and are currently limited to a mintage of 200 pieces. The subject matter of both the obverse and reverse is different each year. (For a more detail review of these medals, refer to page 81, *Hawaiian Money*, by Medcalf and Russell, 1978.) These medals make an excellent collection by themselves; however, they are really a small segment of the larger scarce silver round collecting area.

My closing comments on this subject are targeted toward you, the reader: why not start a silver round collection? Put together a collection of the HSNA medals and add to that collections those rounds that qualify as "scarce" (such as the Honolulu Coin Club 1985 issue of only 100 pieces). Be sure to consider the eventual preparation of an exhibit of a portion of your collection to be seen by others at our local coin shows. Good Luck!



## THE MAUI MONEY SHOW

The Maui Marriott Hotel in the luxurious Kaanapali resort area on the island of Maui is the site of the Maui Money Show, to be held Aug. 29-30th.

Show hours will be from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Aug. 29th, and noon to 7 p.m. the following day. Dealers will have access to the bourse beginning at 10 a.m. Aug. 29th, and 9 a.m. Aug. 30th.

Dealers who failed to obtain one of the 80 bourse tables available will have the opportunity to trade with those who did, prior to the show's official opening, from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 29th, by paying a \$10 registration fee and submitting a numismatic business card and driver's license for reference and security.

At this time, some of the better known mainland dealers attending are: Oklahoma Federated Gold & Numismatics, Liberty Coin Co., Gold & Silver Emporium, George Eggimann, Continental Investment Group, Western Numismatics, Ltd., Michael Aron, Dean Tavenner, Rarities Group, Kevin Lipton Rare Coins, and Century Stamp & Coin. All dealers taking tables will have their choice of location. The order will be determined as deposit checks are postmarked and/or taken in by either Don Medcalf of Hawaiian Islands Stamp & Coin, 1111 Bishop St., or Craig Watanabe, Box 29933, Honolulu, HI 96820-2333. Hotel reservations are available on a limited basis to either dealers or attendees from Creative Holidays, 526-2627. Ask for Didi Ah Yo.

Come one, come all to the show that you'll be able to "deal-in" with an atmosphere of comfort and relaxation! This will give all of you a chance to meet some "new" mainland dealers that you've read about in many major numismatic publications!

Sincerely and Aloha,  
Craig Watanabe and Don Medcalf

## IT'S A GIRL!



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Conlon, the parents of a beautiful daughter named Yukiko Colina Conlon. Born on May 29, 1986, a healthy seven-pound baby.





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